

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/720,791

Examiner

Jalatee Worjloh

Applicant(s)

YAMANOUE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/1/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/17/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Elliot Goldberg (reg. No. 33347) on October 21, 2004 (authorization was given via voice messaging on 10/25/2004).

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) An electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus comprising:

a communication unit carrying out data communication with an external source;

a user interface for a user to select desired contents,

a storage unit storing contents of an electronic book and a contents identifier in correspondence,

a communication port to which a user identifier is input, and

a processing unit extracting from said storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface causing said communication unit to transmit said contents identifier and the user identifier input through said communication port to said external source, and providing in a pair auxiliary information to display contents received by said communication unit, wherein the auxiliary information is the hash value of the electronic book's

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header and content encrypted with the user identifier and the contents of an electronic book selected by said user interface.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A key information management apparatus comprising:

a first storage unit storing in correspondence a contents identifier corresponding to contents of an electronic book and a contents key,

a second storage unit storing in correspondence a user identifier and a user key, and

a processing unit referring to said first storage unit and said second storage unit to extract a contents key and a user key according to a specified contents identifier and user identifier, and generating auxiliary information to display contents from said extracted contents key and user key, wherein the auxiliary information is the hash value of the electronic book's header and content encrypted with the user identifier.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An electronic book display apparatus comprising, an input unit to enter auxiliary information to display contents and encoded contents of an electronic book,

a processing unit generating a contents key from the auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key, and reproducing encoded contents input by said input unit using said contents key, wherein the auxiliary information is the hash value of the electronic book's header and content encrypted with the user identifier, and

a display unit displaying the contents reproduced by said processing unit

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) An electronic book display apparatus comprising:

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a first processing unit generating auxiliary information according to electronic book data and a user identifier, and comparing said generated auxiliary information and auxiliary information added to said electronic book data, wherein the auxiliary information is the hash value of the electronic book's header and content encrypted with the user identifier, and

a reproduction processing unit determining a reproduction processing method of contents according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and reproducing the contents.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 11-27 are allowed.

Reason for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent No. 5832083 to Iwayama et al.

Iwayama et al. disclose a data content utilizing device that allows a user to select desire content, a medium for storing encoded data contents and encoded content identification information, a data loading section that retrieves encoded data contents and the encoded content identification information corresponding to the content identification and an information converting section that outputs electronic content selected by the user. Iwayama et al. taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest providing in a pair auxiliary information to display content received by said communication unit as recited in independent claims 11 and 20; generating auxiliary information to display contents from said extracted contents key and user key as recited in independent claim 13; generating a contents key from the auxiliary information input by said input unit as recited in independent

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claim 14; generating auxiliary information according to electronic book data and a user identifier as recited in independent claim 23 and extracting a display attribute from said module with a description of a display attribute as recited in independent claim 27. Notice. As recited in independent claims 11,13,14 and 23, auxiliary information is the hash value of the electronic book's header and content encrypted with the user identifier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No. 6560651 to Katz et al. disclose a computer network based digital information library system employing authentication and encryption protocols from secure transfer of digital information library programs to a client computer system and a mobile digital information playback device.
- "Book on the World Wide Web: Issues and Trends" discloses the problems and benefits of electronic books and challenges in the electronic environment.
- "Five advantages of electronic books" by Griffith outlines the benefits of electronic books.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is 703-305-0057. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for Regular and After Final Actions and 703-746-9443 for Non-Official/Draft.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450***

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, V.A., Seventh floor receptionist.

October 26, 2004